



National Ecological Observatory Network
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



Public Meeting

National Science Foundation

*National Environmental Policy Act and National
Historic Preservation Act Review of the
Proposed NEON Domain 20 Field Site at the Pu'u
Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve*

May 25th, 2017

5:30pm-7:30pm



Public Meeting

Welcome, please sign-in!

AGENDA	PROJECT TEAM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open-house: 5:30-7:30pm• Brief presentation by NSF: 6:30 <i>Introductions/Materials</i> <i>Project background</i> <i>Environmental review</i> <i>Target dates/next steps</i>• Written comment forms are available	<p>National Science Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Steve Ellis, Program Officer➤ Montona Futrell-Griggs, Project Manager➤ Caroline Blanco, Assistant General Counsel & NSF Federal Preservation Officer <p>Battelle Memorial Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Richard Farnsworth, Program Manager➤ Amy Little, Permitting Specialist➤ Jeff Coleman, Construction Manager➤ Andrea Anteau, Domain Manager D09 <p>CH2M HILL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Lisa Kettley, Project Advisor



Materials

- Handouts: fact sheet, site plan, protocols summary, potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures summary
- Draft EA posted at:
https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?displayFullSite=true&from=fund&orgAbbr=NSF&pims_id=13440
- Presentation, informational boards, and handouts will be posted on the website following the public meeting



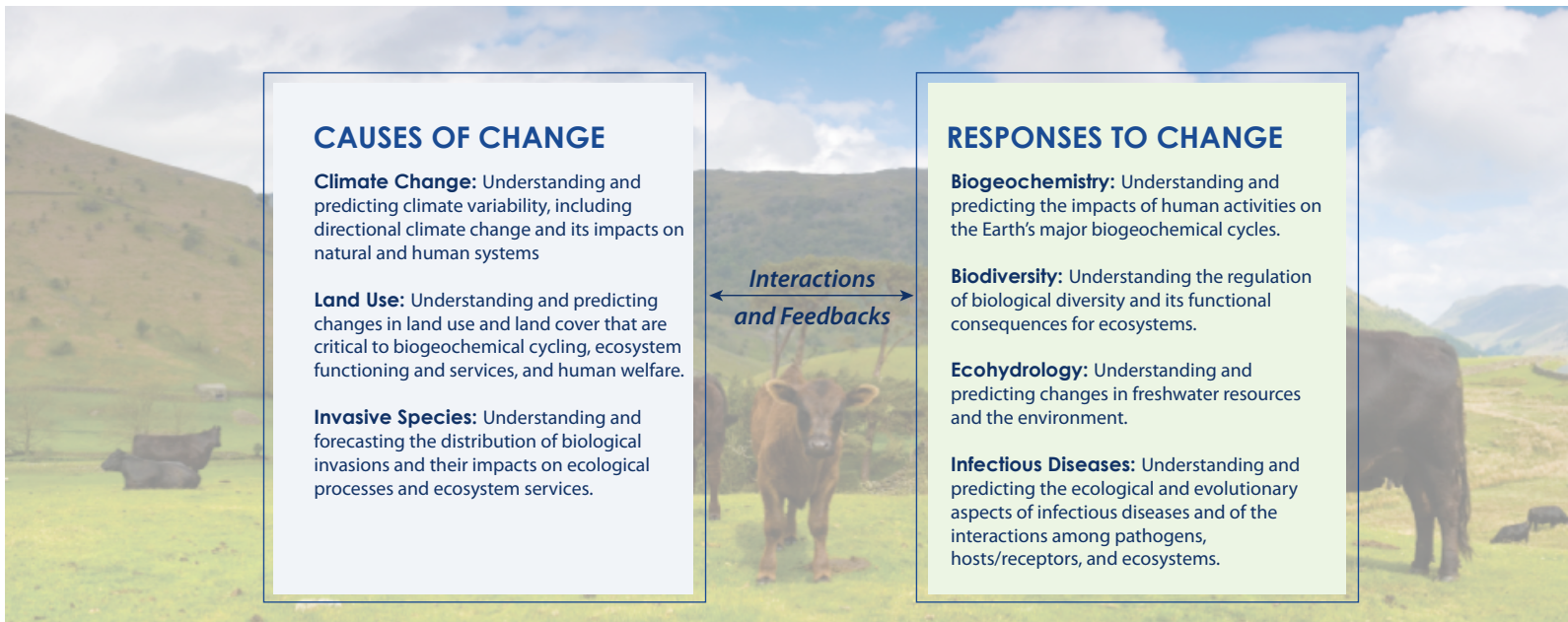
Purpose of this meeting

- NSF has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the proposed NEON field study site within the Pu'u Maka-ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR) on the eastern side of Hawai'i Island
 - Informational posters viewing and brief presentation on the Draft EA and on NSF's consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act/Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 6E
 - This meeting is informational only; verbal questions/comments will not be a part of the record
 - Written comments may be submitted for inclusion in the record and for NSF's consideration in finalizing the EA



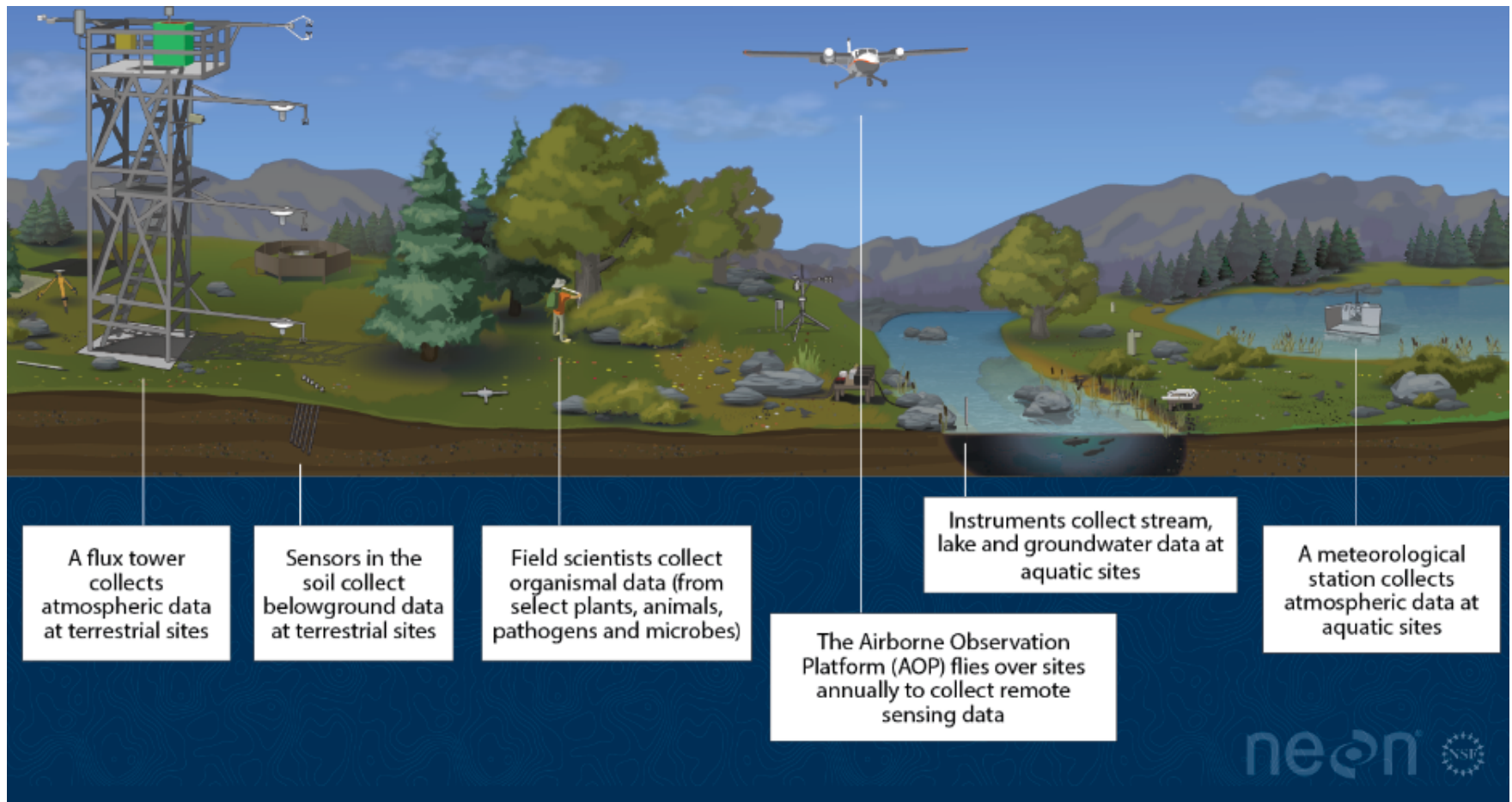
NEON Mission

NEON is charged to *enable understanding and forecasting* of the *impacts* of ***climate change, land use change*** and ***invasive species*** on *continental-scale ecology* by providing infrastructure to support research, education and environmental management in these areas.





Collection Methods at NEON Field Sites





NEON Design



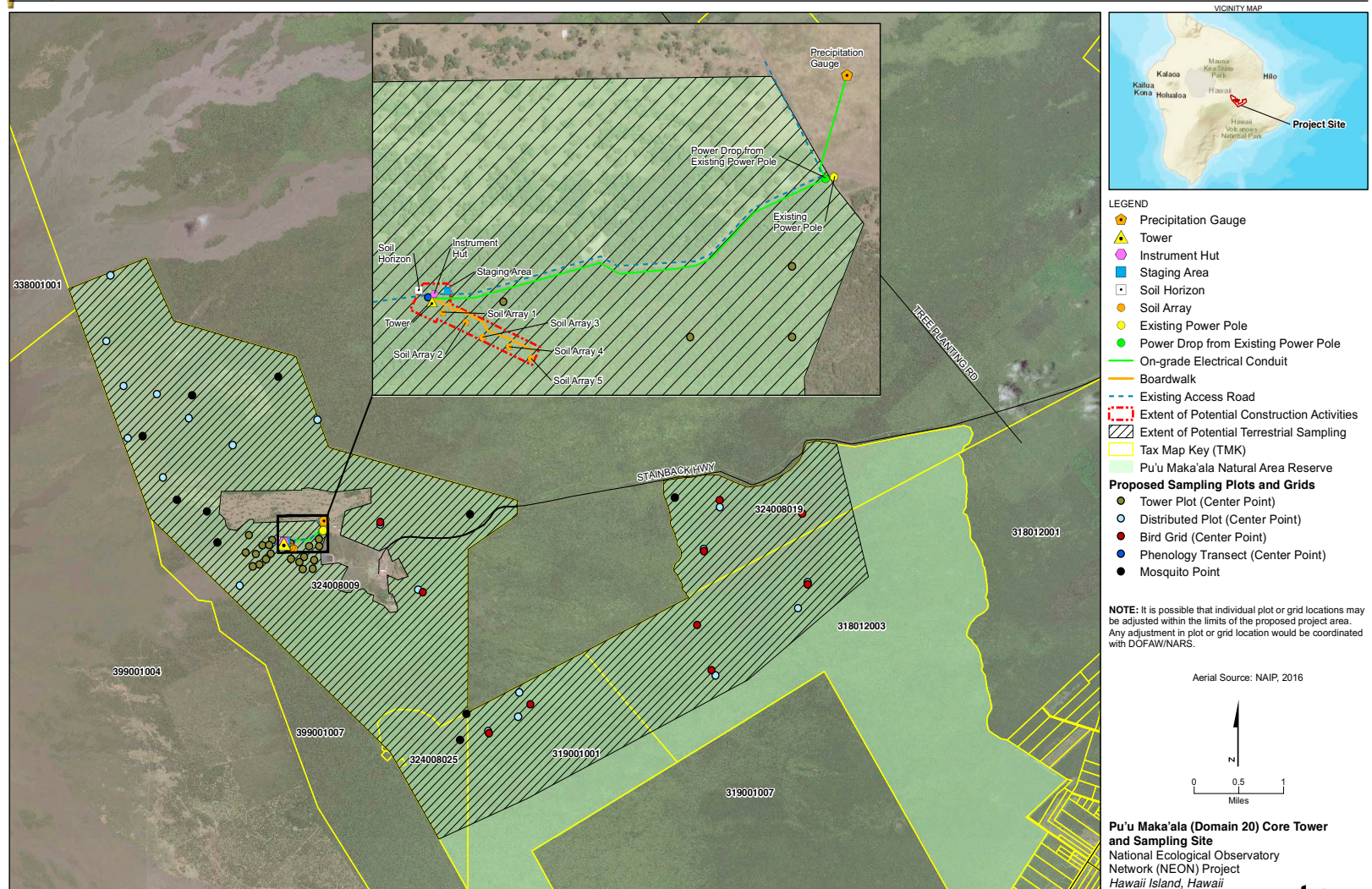


D20 Site Selection Background: Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

- Laupāhoehoe Forest
 - Originally proposed location (in NSF's 2009 EA)
 - Logistical challenges made this unsuitable
- Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve
 - Determined unsuitable due to potential conflicts with existing uses
- Various sites within Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR)
 - Evaluated for consistency with NEON requirements and NAR management goals



Proposed D20 NEON Field Study Site



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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review

- NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental impacts before making decisions
 - Public scoping
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - Draft EA distribution and public meeting
- Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 also requires environmental review; the Draft EA complies with both Chapter 343 and NEPA



Draft EA- Resource Areas Considered

- Climate
- Land Use and Recreation
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Archaeological, Architectural, and Cultural Resources
- Visual Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic
- Human Health and Safety
- Public Services and Utilities
- Socioeconomics



Draft EA Availability

- Available on NSF website since May 9th at:
https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?displayFullSite=true&from=fund&orgAbbr=NSF&pims_id=13440
- Hard copies at public libraries: Hilo Public Library; Keaau Public and School Library; Mountain View Public and School Library; Edwin H. Mookini Library, University of Hawai'i at Hilo; and Hawai'i State Library (Honolulu)
- Notification of Draft EA availability with link sent out to stakeholders



How to submit comments on the Draft EA

- Written comments may be submitted during this meeting- please provide them to a project team member
- Written comments (emailed or mailed) will be accepted through June 22nd, 2017 (postmarked)
 - NEON_EA_comments@nsf.gov
 - Ms. Montona Futrell-Griggs
RE: NEON Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 615N
Arlington, Virginia 22230



National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 and HRS 6E Status Update

- Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions (undertakings) on historic properties
 - Potential consulting parties invited to provide input during scoping and at an October 2016 meeting; potential consulting parties have been updated throughout the process
 - Initiation of consultation with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in December 2016
 - Cultural Resources Assessment of Effects completed
 - Letter seeking concurrence from SHPD on findings in May 2017
 - Additional opportunity for consulting parties input at public meeting
- HRS Chapter 6E is the state counterpart and also being addressed through this process



Cultural Resources Assessment of Effects

- No known historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Assessment considers potential impacts to the cultural landscape, archaeological resources, and Traditional Cultural Properties
- Implementation of best management practices to address any unanticipated discovery of buried cultural resources
- NSF expects no historic properties to be affected by the proposed undertaking
- In addition, due to the nature of the proposed research site components, NSF finds that the undertaking would result in no adverse effects to TCPs such as the cultural landscape, as well as to cultural uses, practices, and historic properties



Endangered Species Act Compliance Update

- Section 7 of the ESA requires consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) when any threatened/endangered species or their habitat may be affected by a proposed action
 - Species list and recommendations from USFWS
 - Correspondence with USFWS and other project stakeholders on species/critical habitat concerns
 - Revisions to terrestrial sampling protocols and other mitigation measures
 - Continued consultation with USFWS



Next Steps

- Final EA/Finding of No Significant Impact (if appropriate)
- Conservation District Use Permit process (ongoing)
- NARS permit process
- Construction-related permitting
- Construction and installation of sensors (if proposed action is approved)



Thank you for your participation!

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